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Revival of Taluk Boards.

* 263 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to revive Taluk Boards?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, before the Government have considered the question, many pronouncements on this topic have been made by the Hon. Minister for Local Administration and others. Therefore may I know what the skeleton proposals are that are under the consideration of the Government? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, the hon. Member will know soon when they are published."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister answered that it was under the consideration of the Government. The Hon. Minister answered a similar question also that it was under consideration. May I ask him whether it is under the *active* consideration of the Government or it is under mere consideration? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, it is under active consideration of Government."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" When it is stated that the matter is being considered, the proposals were given out prominently in the press, and now the Hon. Minister refuses to give an answer to this question. May I know why it is so? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, I have never refused an answer. I only said it would take time before publishing all the proposals in the matter. The hon. Member will have an opportunity to discuss that matter on the floor of the House very soon."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Is it the policy of Ministers to make speeches on platforms about policies before they are actually considered by Government? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Only when a particular matter is taken into consideration, such speeches are made in order to get the opinion of the public."

Abolition of two ration-shops in Chevayur firka, Kozhikode.

12 noon. * 264 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that two ration shops were abolished recently in Chevayur firka, Kozhikode, under the Chevayur Producer-*cum*-Consumer Co-operative Society, and if so, what were the reasons for the same?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes. Two out of the 18 ration shops (Nos. 79 and 84) run by the Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Chevayar, were abolished on 5th July 1953 after due publication of the fact among the card-holders. The financial position of the society was not comfortable and it could not bear the heavy establishment charges for the maintenance of all the ration shops. The card-holders who were drawing rations from these two shops have been attached to the nearest ration shops under the same society."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" സർ, റേഷന മേടിക്കുന്നവക്ക വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ തീരുമാനം മാററണമെന്ന കാണിച്ച ഗവമ്മേണ്ടിന്ന വല്ല മെമ്മോറാണ്ടവും ചേവായൂരിലെ നാട്ടുകാരിൽനിന്ന കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, some representations were made in this regard and they were considered. The Government thought that it was not necessary to reopen these two shops."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know the number of card-holders that are served by each ration shop after this abolition? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Is it not a fact that all the producers-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies in Malabar had to reduce the number of such ration shops due to the fact that grains were available in the open market and the number of purchasers had also decreased? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The main difficulty is that these societies were agents for procurement of food-grains in Malabar. After we gave up procurement in Malabar, the societies are not economically sound and they are running into losses. That is why they had to reduce establishment charges and in pursuance of that, we had to abolish some of the ration shops."

Sinking of wells under Rural Water-supply Scheme.

* 265 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the total number of wells sunk by the Government under rural water-supply under the Five-Year Scheme so far up to 31st July 1953?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The number of wells sunk under the Rural Water-supply Scheme up to 31st July 1953 in the Madras State is 5,737 (five hundred, seven hundred and thirty-seven)."